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***Scythris picaepennis* (Haw.) (Lep.: Scythrididae): extended emergence or possible bivoltinism in South Wiltshire**

Between 1986 and 1991 I recorded *Scythris picaepennis* from four separate locations in South Wiltshire (VC8). Records from three of these sites corresponded with the stated imago emergence period, *i.e.* July (Meyrick, 1927; Emmet, 1988 and Emmet, 1991) and mid-June to end of July (Bengtsson, 1984). However at the fourth site, Boscombe Down, the moth was occasionally found to be quite common well beyond the end of July (see list below). It should be borne in mind that these were casual observations and not exhaustive searches.

3rd July 1989 - 1	10th July 1990 - 1
3rd August 1989 - 6	17th July 1990 - 1
10th August 1989 - 30	29th August 1990 - 15
5th September 1989 - 18	5th September 1990 - 1
	13th September 1990 - 1

In northern Europe the Scythrididae are mostly univoltine but a few may be bivoltine; in any case they have a very extended flight period (Bengtsson,

1984). *S. picaepennis* may therefore take advantage of suitable weather and habitat to produce a second brood or, at least, considerably extend its flight period. The location where this phenomenon was noted is a sheltered south-facing disused railway bank where the moths could mostly be found in the flower-heads of *Ranunculus repens* or *Helianthemum nummularium*.

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Hazards of butterfly collecting – Political undercurrents

Before I left Zambia in 1971, I took some local leave for a final visit to my old haunts in Mwinilunga District, in the far north-east. At that time the politics of the district were somewhat confused. The United National Independence Party (UNIP) governed the country, appointed district governors, and maintained a presence wherever possible. It was a one-party State. However, much of Mwinilunga District still staunchly supported the African National Congress (ANC). The latter had an armed wing, which based itself in neighbouring Angola, although at that time most of the arms seemed to consist of bows and arrows.

I made a bee-line for the Isombo Stream, nor far from Kalene Hill Mission, the home of exotic rainforest fauna from Zaire to the north. I camped in my Peugeot 707 stationwagon not far from the village which controlled the area, and which of course supported UNIP. However, I then found I had camped right beside a track used by the armed wing of the ANC to infiltrate back into Zambia. They greeted me in a secretive manner and went on their way.

During the course of the day's collecting I had acquired a thorn in my foot and I went to the nearby stream to wash and try to remove it. Two large gentlemen smartly dressed in green uniforms appeared and proudly announced themselves as members of the Angolan Army, on a friendly cross border visit. They volunteered, could they help me remove the thorn?

Which all goes to show that Christian charity and even tolerance of political disagreement can survive in disturbed times, and that foreigners who maintain a neutral stance do not need to feel alarmed or even out of place.

On another occasion, during a weekend on an official tour, I was, all by myself, collecting dragonflies for Elliot Pinhey at a roadside pond on the Zambia-Malawi border. A smart looking local politician on a bicycle appeared and wanted to know who I was? I said I was an economist from Lusaka. "A communist", he said, "my word, I have never met one of them before". I am still not sure I convinced him that the two words are not synonymous!

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